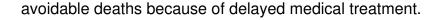
(Warren, Ohio) - Today, Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17) commended the increasing support of pro-life individuals and groups in championing comprehensive health care reform for all Americans. On Wednesday March 17, the heads of major Catholic women's religious orders (representing 59,000 women religious) encouraged all members of Congress to "cast a life-affirming 'yes' vote" on H.R. 3590. The announcement by the Catholic nuns comes on the heels of similar pleas for the passage of health reform by the U.S. Catholic Health Association (CHA) and a coalition of 25 pro-life religious individuals and groups. Congressman Ryan – a practicing Catholic, pro-life Democrat, and supporter of health reform – "When Congress passes comprehensive states: health care reform this week, we will make a tangible, positive difference in the lives of millions of Americans. Families with young children need not be fearful of a late-night fever. Working men and women need not be fearful of 'pre-existing conditions'. Seniors need not be fearful of falling into a 'donut hole'. Small business owners need not be fearful of bankruptcy due to the overwhelming cost of health insurance. The insurance industry, on the other hand, should indeed be fearful. Fearful of accountability. Fearful that rate increases will be repealed. Fearful of losing profits from skyrocketing premiums. We have a moral obligation to protect, empower, and improve the lives of our citizens. We have no obligation to support the skyrocketing profits of the insurance industry. This bill puts the American people over corporate profits, and I am proud to support it."

# # #

## **CATHOLIC WOMEN RELIGIOUS SUPPORT LETTER**

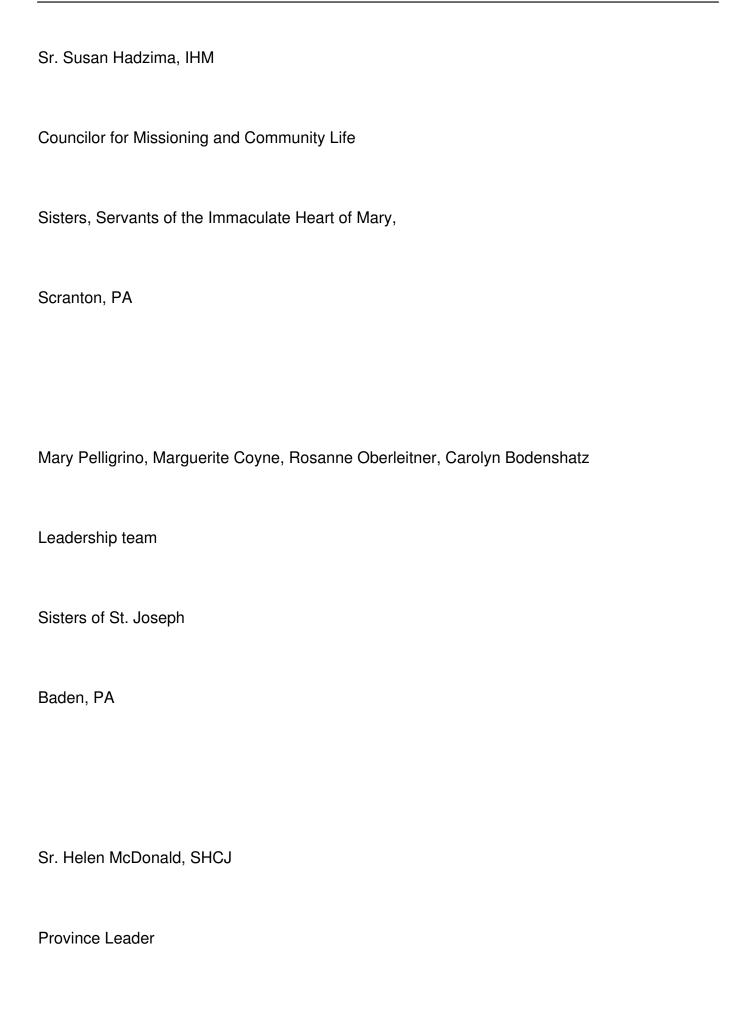


The health care bill that has been passed by the Senate and that will be voted on by the House will expand coverage to over 30 million uninsured Americans. While it is an imperfect measure, it is a crucial next step in realizing health care for all. It will invest in preventative care. It will bar insurers from denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions. It will make crucial investments in community health centers that largely serve poor women and children. And despite false claims to the contrary, the Senate bill will not provide taxpayer funding for elective abortions. It will uphold longstanding conscience protections and it will make historic new investments – \$250 million – in support of pregnant women. This is the REAL pro-life stance, and we as Catholics are all for it.

Congress must act. We are asking every member of our community to contact their congressional representatives this week. In this Lenten time, we have launched nationwide prayer vigils for health care reform. We are praying for those who currently lack health care. We are praying for the nearly 45,000 who will lose their lives this year if Congress fails to act. We are also praying for you and your fellow Members of Congress as you complete your work in the coming days. For us, this health care reform is a faith mandate for life and dignity of all of our people.

We urge you to vote "yes" for life by voting yes for health care reform in H.R. 3590.

Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Joan Chittister, OSB
Co-Chair Global Peace Initiative of Women
Erie, PA
Sr. Mary Persico, IHM
President
Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
Scranton, PA



Sister Barbara Hagedorn, SC

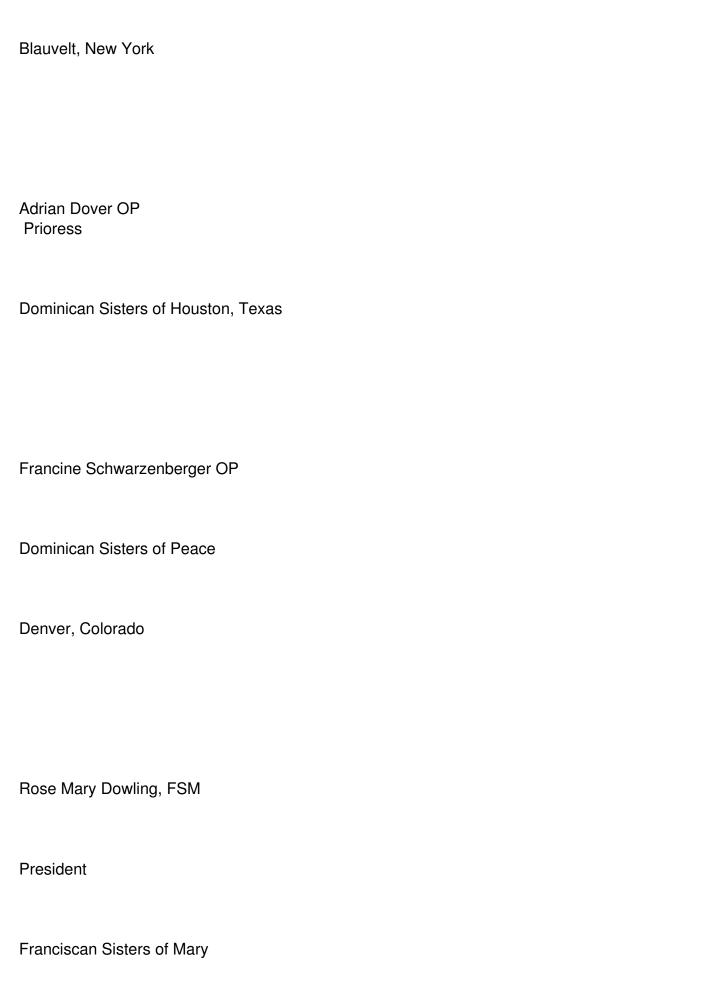
Mar. 17, 2010: Congressman Ryan Commends Increasing Support for "Life Affirming" Health Care Bill

Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Mt. St. Joseph, Ohio
Marilyn Kerber, SNDdeN
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
Canonical Representative, Ohio Province
Sisters of St. Francis
Tiffin, Ohio
Leadership Team
Sisters of the Precious Blood

Sisters of the Holy Names
U.SOntario Province Leadership Team
Josephine Gaugier, OP
Adrian Dominican Sisters
Holy Rosary Mission Chapter Prioress
Adrian, MI
Kathleen Nolan, OP Adrian Dominican Sisters Office of the General Council
Joan Mumaw, IHM – Vice President

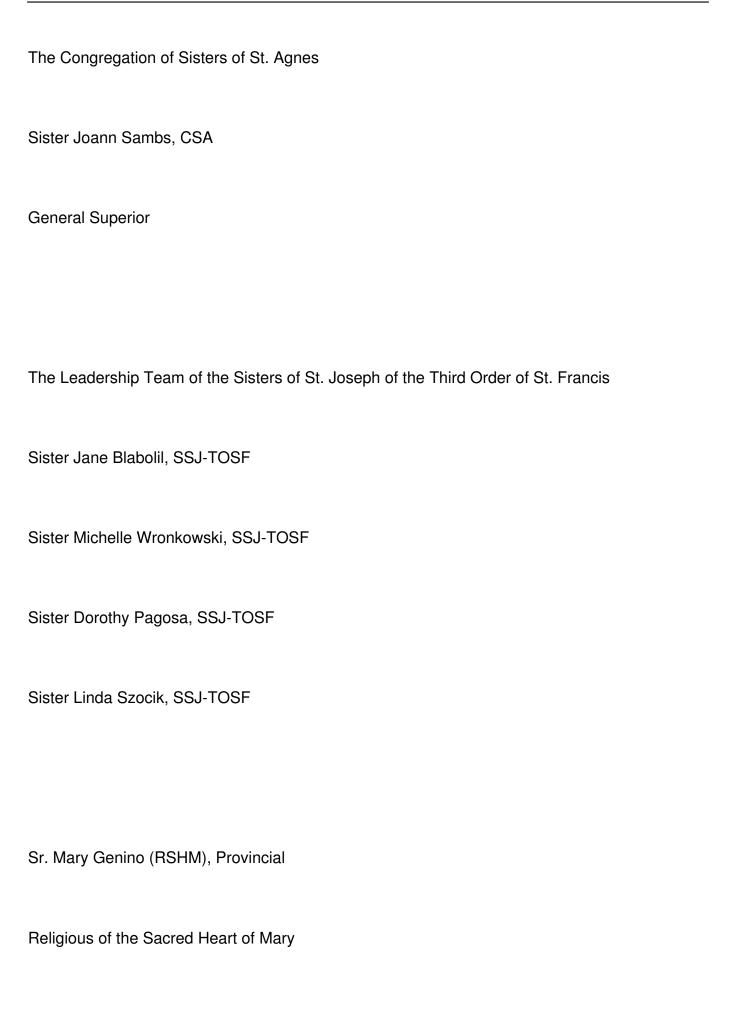
On behalf of the Leadership Council
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Monroe, MI
Corinne Weiss,
Servants of Jesus Leadership Team
Saginaw MI
Beatrice Haines, OLVM
President, Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
Huntington, IN

Eileen C. Reid, RJM
Provincial Superior
Religious of Jesus and Mary
Washington DC
Sister Cecilia Dwyer, O.S.B.
Prioress
Benedictine Sisters of Virginia
Sr. Dorothy Maxwell, Councilor
Sisters of St. Dominic



**Provincial Councilor** 

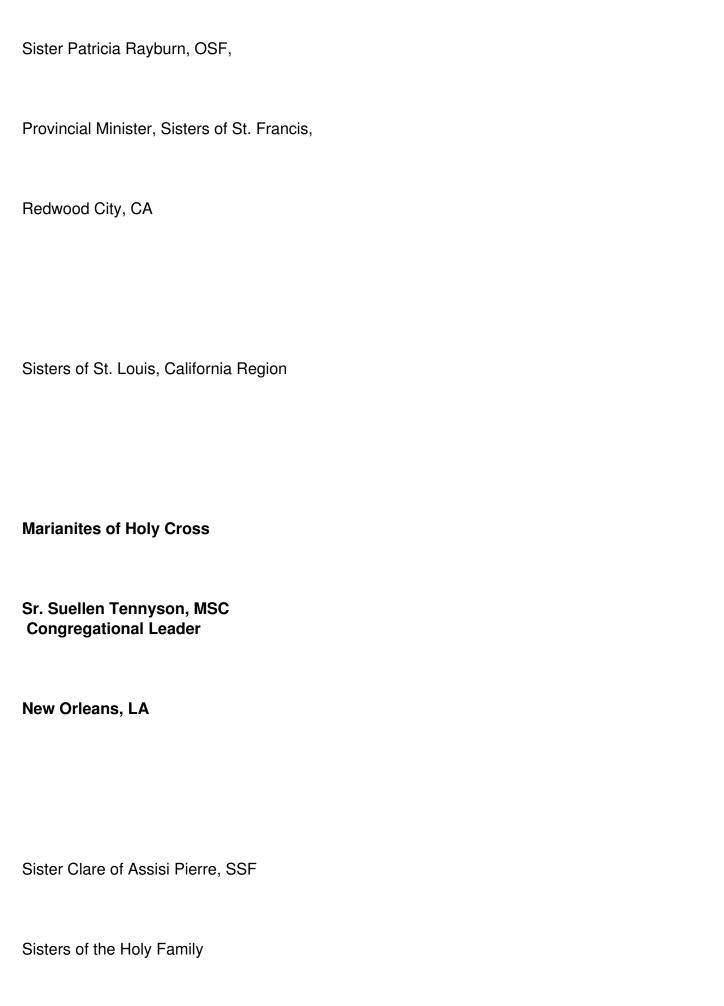
Sisters of St Francis

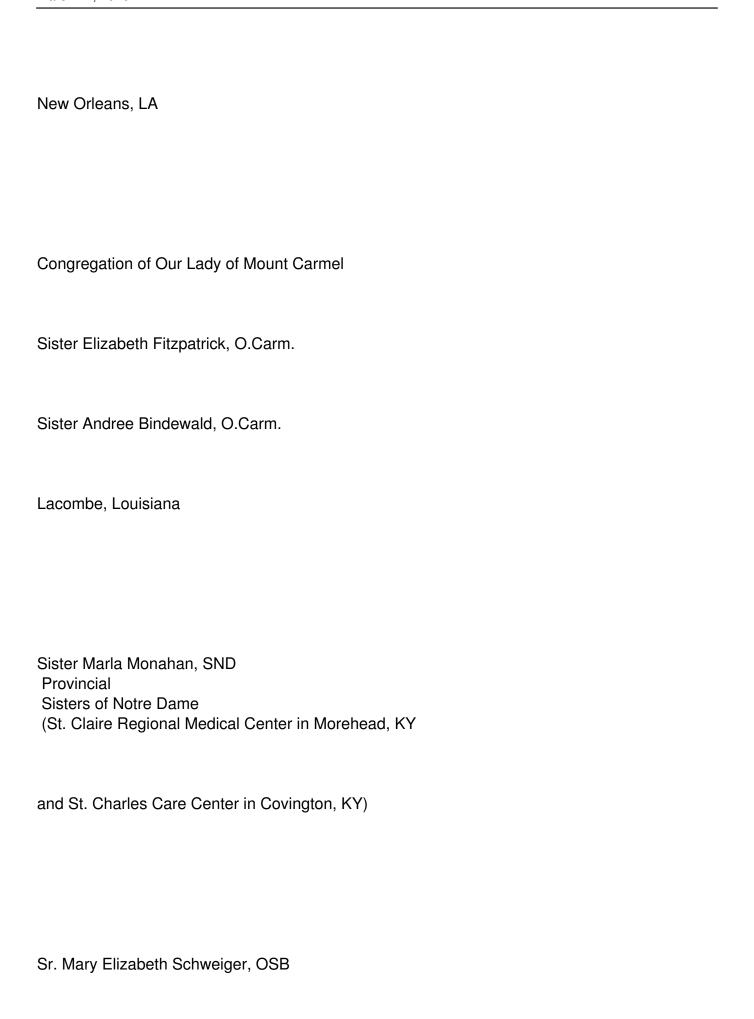


Western American Province.
Debra M. Sciano, SSND
Provincial Leader
Milwaukee Province, School Sisters of Notre Dame
Sister Liz Heese
School Sisters of St. Francis
US Province, Milwaukee, WI
Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA, President

Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
La Crosse, WI
Sharon Simon, OP
President
Racine Dominicans
Maryann A. McMahon, O.P.
Vice President
Dominican Sisters of Racine, WI
Agnes Johnson, OP

Sister Maureen McCarthy School Sisters of St. Francis U.S. Provincial Team Milwaukee, WI





Subprioress	
Mount St. Scholastica	
Atchison, KS	
Janice Cebula, OSF	
President	
Sisters of St. Francis, Clinton, Iowa	
Mary Rehmann, CHM	
President	
Congregation of the Humility of Mary	

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,000 Catholic health care sponsors, systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, and related organizations, I am writing to urge you to move quickly to enact health reform by passing the Senate-approved legislation in conjunction with a second "corrections" bill providing for necessary legislative fixes that will improve the overall package.

As a longtime advocate of health reform, CHA and its members are committed to creating a health care system that ensures everyone will get the health care they need, when they need it. The 47 million individuals without insurance, the 16 million individuals who are underinsured, and the insured who have trouble affording their current coverage are all in desperate need of improvements to our health care system. It has been clear for many years now that fundamental, comprehensive reform of the health care system is not merely a financial or political issue, but a moral imperative as well. We commend Congress for all your efforts over the past year on behalf of those failed by the current system, and urge you to bring those efforts to fruition as quickly as possible.

The Senate legislation goes a long way toward meeting the goals of reform, including expanding coverage to over 30 million of the uninsured through Medicaid expansion, tax credits and subsidies; providing much-needed reforms of the private insurance market; bending the cost curve of the health system by supporting delivery system reforms that improve quality of care, patient outcomes, and efficiency; and addressing federal spending levels by being fully paid for and reducing the deficit by \$100 billion over the next ten years.

CHA, however, believes the Senate legislation should be amended through a "corrections" bill to address the following issues:

## PRO-LIFE LEADER SUPPORT LETTER

restrictions on federal funding of abortion have been maintained. Furthermore, this bill provides

new and important supports for vulnerable pregnant women.

• Prohibits insurance companies from using federal funds, including federal tax credits and costsharing assistance, to pay for abortion services except for those services allowable under the Hyde amendment (pg. 2071);
• Requires an insurance company that chooses to offer a plan in a State Exchange with abortion coverage, beyond the Hyde abortion exceptions, to collect a separate second premium payment from each enrollee for the cost of the abortion coverage (pgs. 2071-2072 & 2074-2075);
• Requires the insurance company to deposit all separate payments into a separate account that consists solely of abortion premium payments and that it is used exclusively to pay for such services (pgs. 2072-2074);
• Requires the state health insurance commissioners to ensure that insurance companies comply with these requirements in accordance with guidance and accounting standards set by the Office of Management and Budget and the Government Accountability Office (pg. 2075);
<ul> <li>Requires insurance companies that offer general abortion coverage as part of a qualified health plan to provide a notice of coverage in the summary of benefits and coverage explanation (pg. 2076);</li> </ul>

cover, or refer for abortion or to provide or participate in training to provide abortion (pg. 2077);

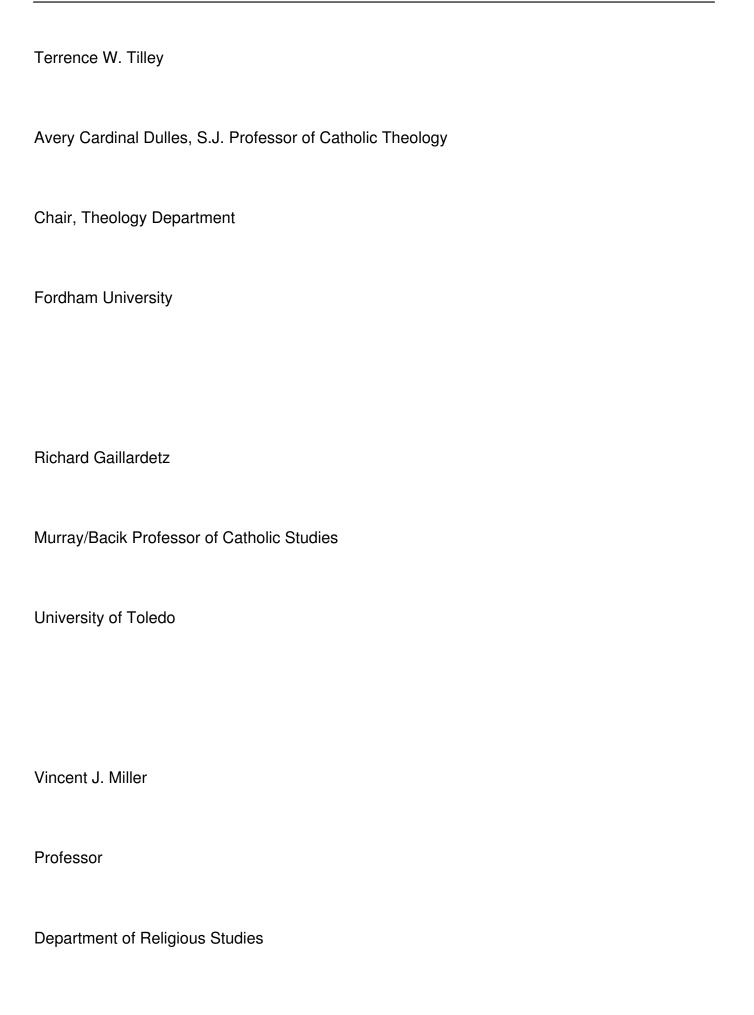
Mar. 17, 2010: Congressman Ryan Commends Increasing Support for "Life Affirming" Health Care Bill

Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good
Ron Sider
President
Evangelicals for Social Action
Rev. Jim Wallis
President and CEO
Sojourners
Stephen F. Schneck

Director, Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies
The Catholic University of America
Joel Hunter
Senior Pastor
Northland Church
Dr. David P. Gushee
Chair
New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good
David O'Brien

Professor of Faith and Culture
University of Dayton
Francis Xavier Doyle
Former Associate General Secretary
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
Jean Stokan
Director
Institute Justice Team
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Markkula Center for Applied Ethics
Santa Clara University
Nicholas P. Cafardi
Dean Emeritus and Professor of Law
Duquesne University School of Law
Dennis M. Doyle
Religious Studies
University of Dayton



Alex Mikulich

Research Fellow

Loyola University

Sandra A. Yocum, Ph.D.

Chair of Religious Studies

University of Dayton

Jesuit Social Research Institute

Rev. Dr. Cynthia L. Hale
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Dr. Barbara Williams Skinner
President
Skinner Leadership Institute
Cheryl Bridges Johns
Professor of Christian Formation & Discipleship
Pentecostal Theological Seminary

Brian McLaren
Author, Speaker and Founding Pastor
Cedar Ridge Community Church
Glen Stassen
Lewis B. Smedes Professor of Christian Ethics
Fuller Theological Seminary
Lisa Sharon Harper
Executive Director, NY Faith & Justice
Author, Evangelical Does Not Equal Republicanor Democrat